The Pulpit

A SERMON BY THE REV. IRA W. HENDERSON

Subject: "The Opportunities and Abilities of the Church."

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, Winfield Scott Hall, Hazing was the theme, on the above theme, the Rev. Ira Wemmell Henderson, pastor, took as his texts Jno. 4:35 and Mat. 25:29. He said:

It was Theodore Roosevelt who said, "There is no more important work worth having is the opportunity coupled with the capacity to do a thing worthily and well, the doing of which in its vital importance touches the welfare of all human kind."

Opportunity and ability—that is to say, the chance and the capacity to do. All true success is a combination of these two elements in human life. Failure is lack of either or of both. Without opportunity the man of capacity, of ability, of real worth is handicapped in the race of life. To be without the chance to do is to be doomed to failure, whatever may be our capacities or abilities for accomplishment. Contrarwise lack of ability shipwrecks opportunity of value. The mute, inglorious Milton of whom the bard so sweetly sang, was, and is to-day a tragedy, a waste of capacity, of ability, lacking in opportunity. Not otherwise many a man has had opportunity standing at the door of his life beckoning for success who has shorn that opportunity of its very semblance of use and value, simply because he has been unable to accept the chance that was presented to his view. If there is a sadness thing than a man of genius lacking in opportunity. It is chance awaiting the accomplishment. It is inconsistency. It is heart-breaking. It will bear to the heaven in the most that will reflect society and make it palatable to thoughtful men. It is the truth of God. It is God's voice in the language of the land and of the day. It is the message of the Almighty to the people. It cannot be denied. It will not be denied. There is a moving in the tree tops. The feet falls of Jehovah are to be heard on earth. The signs of the times, be who run may read. Any man with an open ear and open eye and an open mind may hear, and see, and satisfy his soul in the contemplation of such revelations as are as transcendent as they are immediate.

Having considered in some fashion the opportunities of the church, let us consider now some of the abilities of this great organization, instituted of God among men, into whose hands has been given the tremendous, divine task to transform individual lives and to transform individual, even human society into the image of the heavenly democracy of God.

The abilities of the church are commensurate with the opportunities. Emanuel is with us, and all power in the hea ven and in earth is given unto Him. He promises inspiration. He gory illumines her. God is with her. He constitutes that overlasting majority against which sin cannot prevail.

The abilities of the church are to be found also in her means, in her men and in her message.

The ability of the church is to be found in her means. The church has more means than ever before in all her wondrous history. She is the richest institution in the world. The organization of the church is tremendous. We are almost over-organized. The church has an influence that is as far-reaching as her spiritual dominion and as effective, when applied, as it is widespread. Men may scoff at the church, they may laugh behind her back, but a militant and moving church, filled with the fervor and fire of the apostles, panoplied with the power of Jehovah, is a sight to strike terror to the heart of every evil man and hand. Yea, and it does strike terror. The church may cause sinners to be too often she does. But the church in motion is irresistible.

The church has the men. Never was her minister more able, more intelligent, better educated, more cultured. Her spiritual possibilities through them are unsurpassed. When they gain the spirit of self-sacrifice of the Redeemer they will be invincible. In all the world there is no body of men better fitted to do the labor of blazing the trail for the world as we ascend toward God than the ministers of the church of Jesus Christ. There is no more competent leadership. There is no body anywhere that can be safer guide. The church has the men in the pew as well. The day has passed when the pew was piously uneducated and religiously untutored. To-day the bulwark of the church is to be found in her enlightened laity. The minister no longer is the only superbly educated man in the community. The layman is as cultured as the priest. And it is well. The efficiency of the ministry ought to be enhanced thereby. And it is. No minister may reckon for the stupendous reform that has been wrought in the world, for the good of the ministry as for the whole church of Jesus Christ, through the education of the people. Such a pulpit and such a pew constitute a living factor that is constantly an effective asset to the work of the church.

And the church has the message. And it is not a new one. We may not add to it. We may redefine its essentials. We may clothe it in the vernacular of our land and age. We may readjust it to the changing life to which it speaks. But it is the same old message. The message of salvation from the dominion of sin, the grip of sin through the grace of God as it is revealed to a world in thrall through Jesus Christ our Lord. The message of Jesus. The world wants it. The church has it. It is her mighty asset. The church not only has the message. She is the message. She not only has the truth; in a sense she is the truth. If she is not she ought to be. There is no need for a new truth. There is no call for a new gospel. The necessity is that we shall apply the old story of God's redeeming love and of man's responsibility to God to the world to-day. We must lead man to realize to know that God is as truly the captain of our souls as He has been of our fathers' in the ages past, and that peace, quietude, contentment, that are perdurable, can be secured only through complete obedience to His holy will.

These opportunities and these abilities are dependent upon the spirit of fidelity to the Spirit of God that possesses us. Dominated and controlled by the spirit of the living God, the church, translating desire into energy, may lead humanity into the promised land of the new dispensation and follow our Saviour into the realization of the spiritual kingdom of God. Without the spirit opportunity and ability are but helpless.

The church must accept these opportunities and use her means to meet these capacities. The world is her field. And the world is needy. The

The Highest Elevator

The highest elevator service in the world is that at Burgenstock, a mountain near the Lake of Lucerne, where visitors are carried 50° feet to the top of a vertical rock.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR SEPT. 1 BY THE REV. I. W. HENDERSON.

Subject: The Two Reports of the Spies. Numbers 13:17-20, 25-33 —Golden Text, Numbers, 14:9 —Memory Verses, 30, 31.

Israel's attempt to enter the promised land directly from the south was, as we shall learn from a perusal of the lesson, a failure. They grew faithhearted and doubted the power of God to enable them to enter into the land as long as it was inhabited with the population that possessed it. This lack of trust was fatal. It condemned them to wanderings for forty long and weary years. It meant that many should die without experiencing the joy of entering the promised land. It meant Pisgah, and no more, for Moses.

God's willingness to allow Israel to prove the possibility of a fulfillment of His promise is the first noticeable truth that the lesson affords for study. Israel, in spite of all the evidences of God's providence, care and capacity to provide for them, constantly doubted God. They continually were impatient. When God promised to bring them into a land flowing with milk and with honey they were glad, but they were soon distrustful. And so God permitted them to send their spies in advance that they might carefully examine what ever way they looked. They are sent into a land of promise, vision, without faith in God.

Caleb and Joshua, however, were men of insight and of fidelity to Jehovah. To them the grapes were evidence of a power that was greater than all the hosts that were against them. The God who could give grapes was able to lead Israel to Eschol. A glance at the land simply reinforced their faith in the exactness of the divine promises.

The lessons are obvious as they are helpful. We are, in Christ, on the road from a land of bondage to a land of Jehovah's promise. the kingdom of God as revealed in and through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Figuratively speaking we may say that the road to the kingdom is beset with hosts and giants and enemies of the most rapacious type. Every one of us by nature has had of the glories of the kingdom fruitful to the hope of a land that is fairer than any ever had yet seen. But time out of twelve of us magnify the difficulties while we forget the beauties. Two out of twelve of us, Caleb, Joshua, are equal to faith, men of vision, men of courage. Ten out of twelve of us are afraid of the enemy. All of us should be like Caleb. All of us should be like Joshua. All of us should say: "If Jehovah delight in us then He will bring us into this land." We should all move on toward the promised land.

CANARY BIRDS IN CHURCH.

Centenary Day was celebrated Sunday by the largest Methodist Episcopal Sunday-school in Pennsylvania, that of Siloam Church, East Susquehanna avenue. The school has 2148 pupils, and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon attended the special services. The girls were all dressed in white, and the solid rows of them, together with the flower decorations, made a pretty spectacle for the church members and the visitors who crowded the gallery. A dozen cages, each containing a canary bird, were suspended over the different parts of the high ceiling, and the birds, enchanted songsters joined in the singing with the children. The idea of having songbirds in a church service is new, and every one present agreed that the innovation was a clever one.—Philadelphia North American.

Don't Forget The Place.

BLENCOWE'S STUDIO,

Cor. Main and Eleventh Sts Entrance on Eleventh

Successors to the Lynchburg Photograph Co.

Crowding the Pigs.

Crowding too many pigs together has much the same effect as crowding the chickens in too small a space. Professor Haywood, of the Pennsylvania station, says that half if not more of the outbreaks of disease are due to the overcrowding of young shoats. The younger and weaker ones become so unresistant that finally they succumb to the germs of disease or swine plague that are always present even in healthy pigs.

Sheep Profits.

Under the caption, "Another Good Sheep Item," the Paris, Mo., Appeal says: "Wat Woodson and Ed. Ellis, of Stoutville turned a tidy profit on the sheep they bought last winter. They purchased two mixed cars of sheep in February, consisting of ewes and yearlings, there being 463 head, costing $1297. They sold sheep and lambs to the amount of $1391 and have 240 ewes and over 100 lambs on hand, and this is their first experience in handling stock since they were boys."

A Boll Weevil Dispute.

A lively dispute has cropped out among the entomologists who are experimenting for the best method of fighting the boll weevil in the cotton raising districts. A formidable array of authorities state that while Paris green will kill some of the weevils it will not produce enough increase in the crop to pay for the poison, while just as formidable authority declares that if Paris green will kill any weevils at all it should be used by the planters. One pair of weevils, it is stated, multiplies to 134,000,000 weevils in a year.—Weekly Witness.

Dairy Facts.

E. K. Slater, Dairy and Food Commissioner of Minnesota, lays down three propositions drawn from his observation of the dairy farmers of that State.

Cold fact No. 1. The dairy farmers of this country who do not keep up to the modern dairy and farm literature are the most unsuccessful in the business.

Cold fact No. 2. The dairy farmer who does not make a study of his business and the performance of his individual cows has always failed.

Cold fact No. 3. The reverse of these is true. The dairy farmer who reads dairy and farm literature and takes an interest in his business will succeed every time.

A Good Calf-Rearing Mixture.

The following is one of the most successful calf-rearing mixtures. Boiling mixtures when used along with a little linseed meal, two parts, by weight, of oatmeal; two parts of cornmeal; one part of pure ground linseed.

These meals should be finely ground. It is prepared for use by boiling water, and allowing it to stand for a few hours, or until the rearer is recommended to begin with a quarter of a pound per head daily for the first month, the whole being fed the first month. The allowance may be increased to half a pound and more a day, as the calves become older; and the meal may be supplemented profitably by half a pound to one pound of pure linseed cake per head daily.—T. R. Gilbert, in the American Cultivator.

Skinning Hogs.

In Yates County, New York, says Goodall's Farmer, the farmers have their hogs killed and dressed by men who do that as a business. They think it cheaper and more satisfactory than all the hosts that were against them. The God who could give grapes was able to lead Israel to Eschol. A glance at the land simply reinforced their faith in the exactness of the divine promises.

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Onions Peeled by Lightning.

The greatest freak of the lightning in the storm of Sunday, July 7, in this section was the peeling of onions by lightning, where onions which have been struck by lightning have been peeled. Such accommodating lightning as this would be more welcome than the ordinary sort, "Varsey. "The bodys, were the sagest," says the Ellsworth American. The possibilities of that future day when man has succeeded in taming lightning to his own uses. Then we may look for the agent to bear present and handle supplied with its own lightning apparatus, which would not only furnish light, heat and power, but would peel the onions and potatoes, sweep the floors, bound the fleas, shoot the flishes, hunt buffalo bugs, kill the flies; in fact, do all the drudgery of household varieties